

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



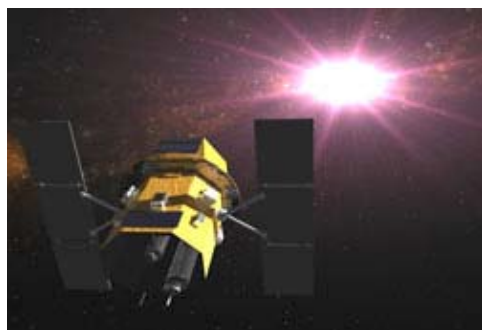
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November 29, 2004

NASA Successfully Launches Swift Satellite

NASA's Swift satellite was successfully launched Saturday from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The satellite will pinpoint the location of distant yet fleeting explosions that appear to signal the births of black holes.



"It's a thrill that Swift is in orbit. We expect to detect and analyze more than 100 gamma-ray bursts a year. These are the most powerful explosions in the universe," said Swift Principal Investigator Dr. Neil Gehrels, at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Each gamma-ray burst is a short-lived event, lasting only a few milliseconds to a few minutes, never to appear again. They occur several times daily somewhere in the universe, and Swift should detect several weekly.

On-board telescopes will determine a precise arc-second position of the burst and measure the spectrum of its afterglow from visible to X-ray wavelengths.

The afterglow phenomenon can linger in X-ray light, optical light, and radio waves for hours to weeks, providing detailed information about the burst. The crucial link is having a precise location to direct other telescopes. Swift will provide extremely precise positions for bursts in a matter of minutes.

Swift notifies the astronomical community via the Goddard-maintained Gamma-ray Burst Coordinates Network. The Swift

Mission Operations Center, operated from Penn State's University Park, Pa., campus, controls the Swift observatory and provides continuous burst information.

Goddard manages Swift. Swift is a NASA mission with the participation of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council in the United Kingdom.

Swift was built through collaboration with national laboratories, universities and international partners, including General Dynamics, Gilbert, Arizona; Penn State University; Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico; Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, Calif.; Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Dorking, Surrey, England; the University of Leicester, England; ASI Malindi ground station in Africa; the ASI Science Data Center in Italy; and the Brera Observatory in Milan, Italy.

Wallops Shorts.....

Off the Pad

A NASA Terrier-MK12 Improved Orion sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on November 24.

The mission was to prove the NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), developed Inertial Attitude Control System in a spinning configuration and to demonstrate the ST-5000 star tracker.

Preliminary results indicate a second stage anomaly. The payload has been recovered.

David Krause, NSROC, Orbital Science Corporation, was the principal investigator. Bill Payne, NSROC, Northrop-Grumman, was the mission manager.

Range News

* The **Poker 2005** team, has completed testing on the Pathfinder radar which will replace the one lost during the fires at Poker Flat Research Range, (PFRR), AK., this past summer. Initial tests show positive results. The Near Earth Networks Services, (NENS), team also is at PFRR working on the wind weighting system.

* Wallops recently supported U.S. Coast Guard sponsored **Aerosonde** phase one flights from Wallops Main Base Airfield and the Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle, (UAV), runway on Wallops Island.

Flights supported the Office of Naval Research and Coast Guard groups from Puerto Rico, Connecticut, and the Eastern Shore.

* The **Deployment Experiments for Balloons on MARS** team has conducted a total of 98 balloon deployment tests from the Wallops Main Base since project start.

In the News

WBOC TV, Salisbury, MD
Feature stories on the Deployment Experiments for Balloons on MARS Project and Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle, (UAV), Operations being conducted at Wallops.

Eastern Shore News
"Spaceport Contract Gets Mixed Reviews"

Annual Awards Ceremony & Employee Open House -- December 17

It's Been Almost 60 Years!

In 2005 we will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

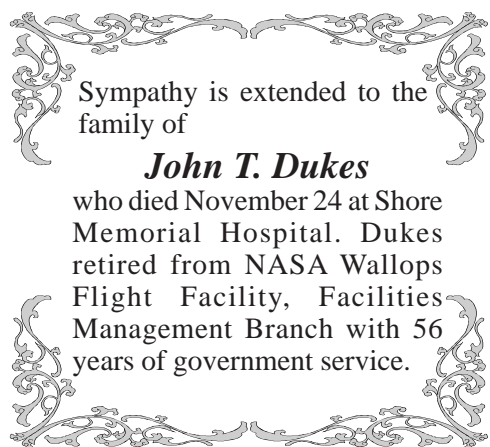
We are currently beginning development of events, such as a NASA Wallops night at the Shorebirds Stadium on July 2 and a grand Open House celebration currently targeted for October 1.

The anniversary theme is ***"60 Years of Exploration."***

Employee suggestions are requested for a logo that can be used with publications,

etc. The logo should be of a simple design that is quickly grasped by a reader. The deadline for inputs is Dec. 1. We then plan to work with Goddard graphics to try and have the logo ready by January. Send submissions by email to rebecca.s.hudson@nasa.gov or by pouch mail to PAO, Bldg. F-6.

Also, in January we will be conducting an employee contest for a decal representing the Anniversary. Past decals will be posted in the cafeteria in December to help get the thoughts flowing.



Sympathy is extended to the family of

John T. Dukes

who died November 24 at Shore Memorial Hospital. Dukes retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Facilities Management Branch with 56 years of government service.

TOASTMASTERS Club

Organizational Meeting and Election of Officers

Monday, December 6
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Building E-2, Williamsburg Room

Toastmasters, a non-profit organization, affords members an opportunity to develop communication skills and speak in public without fear.

Decorating your office for the holiday?

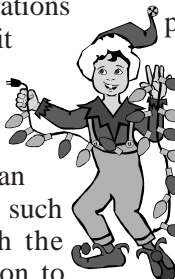
The Wallops Safety Office and Fire Department want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. Before decorating offices, hallways and entrances to buildings, review the following guidelines:

- The only acceptable trees to be set up in GSFC buildings are live trees with the root balls attached or artificial trees made of noncombustible materials. It is important to keep live trees watered regularly to avoid creating a fire hazard.

- Christmas trees or other decorations cannot be placed in corridors, exit ways, or other egress areas.

- Lights must be of the miniature type and approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as UL. Always comply with the manufacturer's recommendation to connect strings of lights in a series.

- Insure electrical wall outlets are not overloaded. Have a qualified person evaluate your electrical power needs.



- Route all wiring out of traffic areas to avoid creating a trip hazard or in areas where accidental damage may occur. An example of this would be pinched wiring between furniture and the wall or floor. NEVER SECURE WIRING WITH STAPLES!

- Use only non – combustible decorations.

- Open flames (such as candles) can not be located on or near Christmas trees or any combustible material.

- Do not hang decorations on fire sprinkler pipes or heads. Always insure the sprinkler head spray pattern would not be blocked in the event of a fire.

- Decorative lights may be turned on only during business hours. All lights must be turned off at night or when your office or building is unoccupied for an extended period of time.

- Contact the Wallops Safety Office, extension 2369, or the Wallops Fire Department, extension 1300, if you have questions or need assistance.

Unstress" Yourself - Schedule a Massage

A Certified Massage Therapist from Massage for Wellness, Salisbury, MD will be at Wallops -

Tuesday, December 7
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bldg. E-2 Training Room

15 and 30 minute appointments are available. \$1. per minute for 15 minutes, \$45 for 30 minute appointment.

Call the Health Unit at x1266 to schedule an appointment. Direct questions regarding massage therapy to Massage for Wellness, at 410-543-8108

Verizon Wireless Representative at Wallops

Wednesday, December 1
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Building E-2 Conference Room

Stop by the Exchange in Building E-2 to pick up a list of discounts being offered to Wallops employees



For more information contact Karen Thornes at x2040.

So, Don't Call it Networking

December 6, 2004
1 to 2:30 p.m.
Building E-2 Training Room

Think of networking as an on-going mission to widen your circle of friends and associates, to get to know and trust more people, and to be known by more people. Think of it not only as a vital, near-term challenge, but also as a long-term investment in your life, and career.

For more information, please call Tracey White at (301) 286-7823.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
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